

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01660 061255Z

42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-06 ITF-05 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 AID-05

ACDA-05 /100 W

----- 036996

R 061218Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3371

INFO /AMEMBASSY AMMAN 571

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 163

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 1660

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, VS

SUBJECT: SYRIAN REACTION TO EVENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

REF: DAMASCUS 7594

1. SUMMARY: SYRIAN REACTIONS TO EVENTS IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA HAVE BEEN PREDICTABLY FAVORABLE TO COMMUNIST VICTORIES BUT AT SAME TIME HAVE AVOIDED HEAVY RECRIMINATIONS AGAINST U.S. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS TENDED TO DWELL ON SIMILARITIES BETWEEN COMMUNIST POSITION THERE AND ARAB POSITION IN M.E. IN SENSE OF BEING FELLOW OPPONENTS TO IMPERIALISM AND TO DRAW LESSON THAT WITH PERSEVERANCE AND DETERMINATION ARABS WILL ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS AGAINST ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DAMASC 01660 061255Z

2. SYRIAN MEDIA HAVE GIVEN CONSISTENT HEADLINES TO VICTORIES OF COMMUNIST FORCES IN SEA, INTERPRETING THEM AS TREND IN WORLD AFFAIRS PRESAGING ARAB RECOVERY OF LANDS OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL. APRIL 22 AL-BAATH COLUMNIST CRITICIZED U.S. FOR GIVING IMPRESSION THAT REVOLUTIONARIES WOULD HAVE FAILED IF CONGRESS HAD APPROVED ADMINISTRATION AID REQUEST. BOTH DAILIES APRIL 27 PUBLISHED REPORT OF SARG GIFT TO PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF TEN TONS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES. APRIL 29 AL-THAWRAH'S EDITORIAL (REFTEL) WARNED THAT "IMPERIALISM" MIGHT SHIFT ITS ATTENTION TO MIDDLE EAST NOW THAT IT DEFEATED IN SEA AND CONCLUDED THAT SEA EXPERIENCE "MUST ENCOURAGE US TO CONTINUE PREPARATIONS TO CONFRONT ISRAEL."

3. MAY 1 AND MAY 3 PRESS REPORTED TWO CONGRATULATORY CABLES SENT BY PRESIDENT ASAD TO VIETNAMESE LEADERS. MAY 1 CABLE NOTED THAT VIETNAMESE "HAVE PROVED BY THEIR VICTORY FACT THAT IRRESPECTIVE OF LENGTH OF TIME WHICH HOSTILE FORCES CONTINUE THEIR AGGRESSION, VICTORY IS ULTIMATELY THE LOT OF PEOPLES WHO ARE DETERMINED TO OBTAIN THEIR RIGHTS." ON PRACTICAL LEVEL SANA ANNOUNCED THAT SARG HAD EXEMPTED FROM REAL ESTATE TAXES DAMASCUS MISSION OF PRG. AL-BAATH COLUMNIST OPINED THAT "RESULTS OF GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL NOT BE DIFFERENT FROM RESULTS OF VIETNAMESE WAR." MAY 3 PRESS BANNERED ASAD'S CABLE TO NORTH VIETNAMESE LEADERS REPORTED BY FBIS. ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE CLAIMED THAT "ALL RACIAL STATES, ESPECIALLY ISRAEL," WERE "DISTRESSED" BY CAMBODIAN AND VIETNAMESE VICTORIES.

4. PRG MISSION IN DAMASCUS HELD LARGE VICTORY CELEBRATION EVENING APRIL 30 AND HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS VISITORS OFFERING CONGRATULATIONS INCLUDING OFFICIAL PLO DELEGATION HEADED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN KHALID AL-FAHHUM.

5. AL-BAATH EDITOR FALHUT, IN FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL MAY 6, WHICH IS OFFICIAL SYRIAN HOLIDAY OF "MARTYRS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 DAMASC 01660 061255Z

DAY," WROTE THAT ANY TRIUMPH BY PEOPLE OVER IMPERIALISM ANYWHERE IN WORLD IS VICTORY FOR ALL PEOPLE. BUT DEFEAT OF IMPERIALISM IN VIETNAM SHOULD NOT LEAD THE PEOPLE TO LET DOWN THEIR GUARD. THEY AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS MUST EXERCISE INCREASED CARE AND VIGILANCE AND INTENSIFY THEIR ATTACKS ON REMAINING POCKETS OF IMPERIALISM, HIGHEST FORM OF WHICH IS ZIONISM. SYRIA, HE SAYS, MUST USE ITS INFLUENCE TO

STRENGTHEN EFFORTS OF ITS FRIENDS (AS OPPOSED TO THOSE
OF "FRIENDS OF ITS ENEMIES") AND TO PREVENT ENEMY
FROM BENEFITTING FROM INTERNATIONAL CONDITIONS.
GENEVA, HE ASSERTS, PRESENTS MOST QUALIFIED FORMULA
FOR SUCCESS IN SEARCH FOR JUST PEACE, BUT "SOUR GRAPES
OF GENEVA WILL NOT RIPEN WITHOUT PROPER PREPARATION AND
CLIMATE."
MURPHY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC01660
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750158-0479
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750574/aaaacqau.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 DAMASCUS 7594
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN REACTION TO EVENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
TAGS: PFOR, SY, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006